

**For Immediate Release:**

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**U.S. Department of Energy to Honor San José  
as a Solar America City at Mayor Chuck Reed's  
Summer Solstice Solar Fair on June 20**

*SAN JOSE* – The U.S. Department of Energy will present San José with its award as a Solar America City on Friday, June 20 at Mayor Chuck Reed's Summer Solstice Solar Fair, a community event and trade show to help residents learn about making the switch to solar.

San José was named a Solar America City for its commitment and comprehensive approach to the deployment of solar technologies and the development of sustainable solar infrastructures. DOE will invest up to \$200,000 in projects in San José as well as providing technical assistance – all with a goal of making electricity from solar photovoltaics cost-competitive with conventional electricity. The award presentation will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the City Hall Rotunda, 200 East Santa Clara Street, San José.

"I am delighted that San José has been honored as a Solar America City," said Mayor Chuck Reed. "This honor recognizes our history of innovation and environmental stewardship, through which San José will become the world's center of innovation in clean, green technologies like solar energy. Not only are we working to help our innovators create new businesses and new jobs, San José will use these technologies to reduce the City's own operating and maintenance costs."

Last year, San José, the nation's tenth largest city, implemented *San José's Green Vision*, which sets 10 ambitious goals for environmental protection and economic development. Solar is a key component of the 15-year Green Vision, which envisions:

- Creating 25,000 Clean Tech jobs.
- Installing 100,000 solar roofs (1/10 of Gov. Schwarzenegger's 1 million solar roofs for California initiative).
- Reducing per capita electricity use by half.
- Moving to 100 percent renewable energy.
- Installing solar on city buildings and retrofitting facilities to save municipal costs.

San José already is a leader in solar technology innovation, with leading corporations such as SunPower, SoloPower, Stion, Nanosolar, Fat Spaniel, and others headquartered here.

The Mayor's Summer Solstice Solar Fair will provide a tradeshow for residents, Downtown workers, and City employees to learn about solar options from City staff and solar companies that have responded to the Mayor's solar challenge to provide solar at no upfront cost.

With energy costs continuing to soar, San José residents don't have to drain their savings in order to use clean, renewable energy to power their homes. Local solar companies are now offering solar energy systems without an initial deposit or upfront cost.

At the launch of the California Clean Tech Open on April 9, Mayor Chuck Reed surprised the crowd by issuing a challenge for solar companies to develop plans for San José residents to install solar energy systems on their homes at no upfront cost. Placing a 60-day deadline for companies to report back, five companies responded with their offers by the June 8 closing date.

The no-upfront cost options vary from 12- to 15-year leases or purchase agreements that are paid for with the savings from the consumer's monthly energy bill. This provides savings over current energy bills, allowing homeowners the ability to avoid soaring electricity costs by generating their own green power.

"I am pleased that five solar companies have risen to the challenge and are providing affordable solar options for San José residents," Mayor Chuck Reed said. "These opportunities not only help consumers and the environment, but also allow these local solar companies to reach a broader community, expanding Clean Tech job opportunities in San José in installation and manufacturing."

More information on the solar options and the June 20 Solar Fair can be found at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/mayor>.

More information on the Solar America City award can be found at <http://www.solaramericacities.org>

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